



## Pending Deployment Notification

**14 May 2008**

Soldiers and Families of the Blackhawk Brigade, it is expected that within the next day or so the Department of Defense will publicly announce the deployment of the 172nd to Operation Iraqi Freedom. This announcement should not be a surprise to any of us as we continue to serve our great nation. However, I am well aware that the formal announcement will create a level of anxiety among our families. My goal today is to attempt to ease some concerns and reemphasize that we are all in this together and real communication is the key to success. I have listed facts to answer some questions everyone may have. If the fact is not listed and you or a family member have different information then I will offer that this is probably rumor, or that you know something that I don't.

- The deployment announcement will not change our current training plan or relocation to GTA.
- We can anticipate with a high level of certainty that we will deploy for no longer than 12 months on this upcoming rotation given the new DOD policy guidance.
- "Stop Loss / Stop Move" action is based upon our deployment order and date. We have not received a deployment order.
- Our 12 month "out of the fight" cycle will end in November. This means we are eligible for redeployment in the late fall.

I am incredibly proud and honored to serve with the Soldiers in this great organization. Our chain of command throughout Germany continues to provide first class support to our organization and our families when we identify a requirement. This announcement gives us first priority on family and Soldier programs which will improve quality of life and training opportunities for our brigade. My final guidance to the formation is to take a deep breath and relax...we will be fine!

***BLACKHAWKS!***

**BLACKHAWK 6**

**BLACKHAWK 6 NOTES #08-08**